

Ambrose Snow House and Cobbler Shop
North Pamet Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-768

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

AMEROSE SNOW HOUSE AND COBBLER SHOP

HABS No. MA-768

Located on the north side of North Panet Road 2/3 miles from U.S. Highway 6, in Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Building number 12-20 in Cape Cod National Seashore.

Owner: Lt. Robert R. Reining,
22 Pleasant Street, Granby, Massachusetts

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Amerose Snow House and Cobbler Shop is a one and a half story Cape Cod "house-and-a-half" of wood. The rectangular house faces south with a west ell. All exterior wall surfaces are shingled. The late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century house is surrounded by natural vegetation.

The house as of 1962 is in fair condition, but is being restored by its owner, Lt. Robert Reining. A new roof and west wall have been added to the exterior and the roof framing has been reinforced. There were intermediate rafters inserted at one time, probably in the nineteenth century, and in 1962 collar ties were added.

The over-all dimensions are 26' on the south by 29' on the east. The house has brick underpinnings which have been replaced in some places by concrete block. The plank walls have exterior shingles and interior plaster. The west ell, which is reputed to have been the cobbler shop was discovered to have a double thickness of walls when repairs were being made by the owner, Lt. Reining. By this he meant that there was an original wall with finish trim, a small space, and another wall with finish trim. The frame is post and beam, which is exposed on the interior. There is one cement stoop at the south door of the house. At the present time there are no chimneys in the structure, although there was one in the center of the house originally. The hole is still there.

The main front door is on the south of the house. The trim for this door is of a later period than the rest of the house. There is also a later door to the north with two lights. The original windows are gone. The present windows are 4/4 light double hung sash. They appear to be replacements of the late nineteenth century.

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The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The roof planks run perpendicular to the ridge and are supported on purlins and later intermediate rafters. The original rafters were spaced at about ten feet on center. Some rafters are hewn and some are sawn. There is a simple box cornice.

The first floor has three rooms across the front and has one large room in the rear. The first floor has a south front center door with an entry and stair hall. To the east of the hall is a primary room. To the west of the hall is a room which is half in the main house and half in the west ell. The west ell has another small room at its very end. To the north or rear of the house is the old kitchen which has two rooms on its east end and two rooms at its west end. The small room to the southwest of the kitchen has a small sink room between it and the west ell, in a peculiar, but seemingly original manner. The second floor has modern beaver-board bedrooms. The cellar is the circular Cape Cod type, but is of small rocks rather than brick.

The main stair runs from the south front door to the center of the second floor. The flooring is random width planking, and seems original except for the old kitchen.

The walls and ceilings are plastered on the first floor and are of beaver-board on the second. The fireplace walls in the southwest room and the old kitchen are paneled. The original color shows through to some extent in the southwest room's paneling cracks - the color is a dark grey-blue. The trim is simple and has been removed from some door and window facings. The posts and beams have been boxed in. The interior doors are four and two panel painted wood with iron lift latches and hinges.

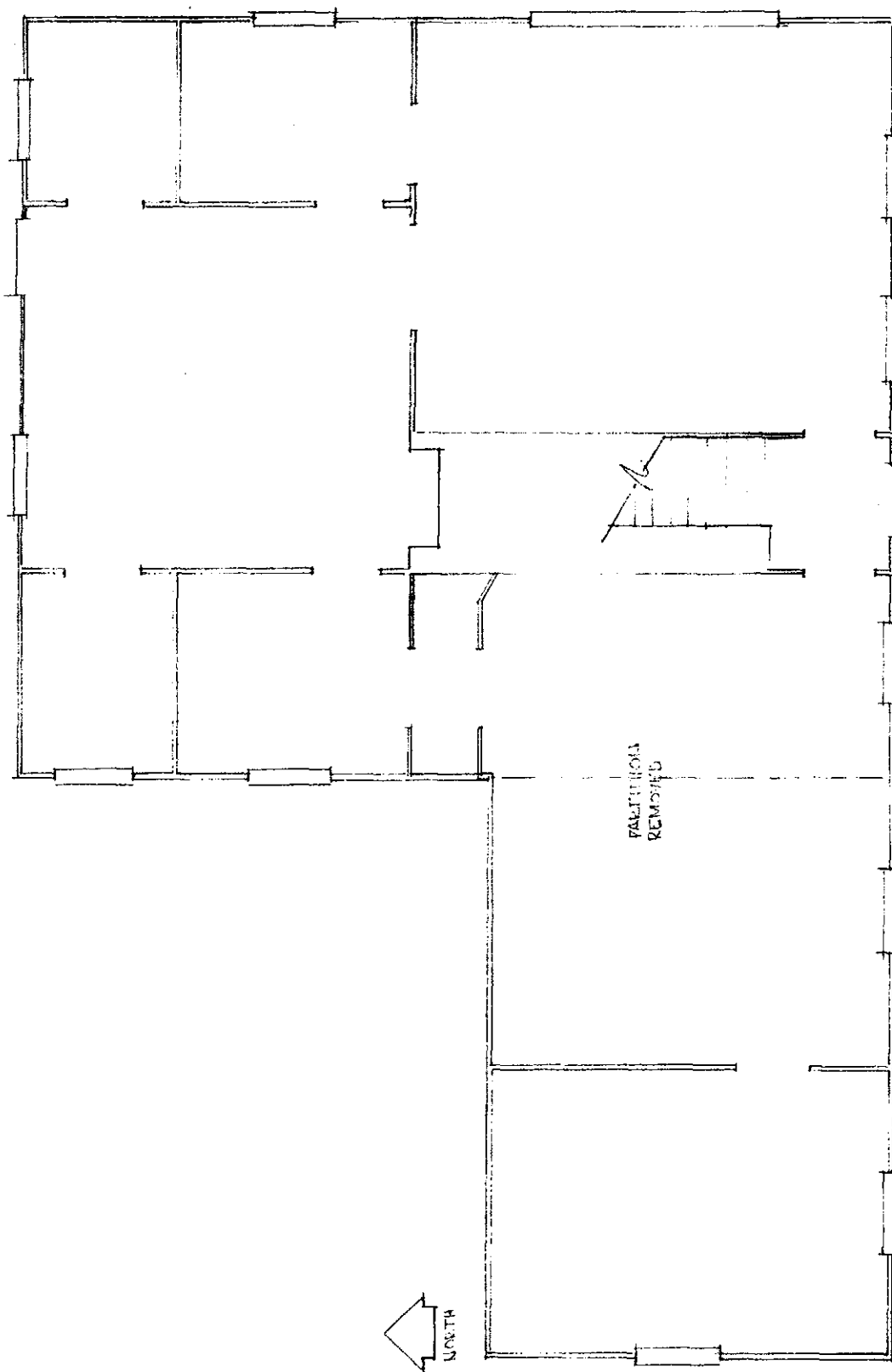
Lighting is from modern electric lights. The heating is by small portable stoves. The house has no fireplaces now or chimneys. There is no central heat.

The house overlooks North Pamet Road. To the rear is a privy, recorded in the HABS as the Ambrose Snow Privy. There is evidence of other buildings near by, but there is nothing known of them. The house has a drive, part of which is brick, to its west.

Prepared by:

Donald B. Myer

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National Park Service
Cape Cod Survey II
Truro field office
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NO SCALE